

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC & SAN DIEGO LAW ENFORCEMENT ARREST 29 IN CRACK DOWN ON UNDERAGE DRINKING PROBLEMS

San Diego – On December 2 & 3, 2005, members of the San Diego County Law Enforcement Task Force on Youth Access to Alcohol assisted investigators from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, San Diego District Office in conducting a multi-agency alcohol enforcement operation that resulted in 29 arrests and dozens of citations for traffic and alcohol-related violations.

The operation, known as the East County Zero Tolerance Holiday Alcohol Enforcement Detail included 21 investigators from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) – El Monte, Inglewood, Rancho Mirage, Santa Ana, and Southern Division Special Operations Unit offices. The operation also involved 47 sworn officers from the following law enforcement agencies: Chula Vista Police Department, Coronado Police Department, El Cajon Police Department, Escondido Police Department, La Mesa Police Department, San Diego Police Department, San Diego County Sheriff's Department, and the California Department of Motor Vehicles. Eight civilian members of Mothers Against Drunk Driving and Friday Night Live also accompanied officers during the operation in ride-along capacities.

The goals of the operation were to enforce alcohol-related criminal statutes, visit premises holding ABC licenses to ensure compliance with ABC rules and regulations and to bring public awareness to alcohol-related crimes such as the unlawful sales, service and consumption of alcohol by minors, the unlawful sales, service and consumption of alcohol by obviously intoxicated persons, and driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

During the operation, officers visited 82 ABC-licensed locations, wrote 33 traffic citations, impounded 12 vehicles and made 29 arrests for individual alcohol-related violations including driving under the influence, minor in possession of alcohol, a minor purchasing alcohol, drunk in public, sales to a minor, serving an obviously intoxicated individual and violations of the business license conditions.

In addition, Investigators made nine ABC administrative cases for violations such as sales to minors, serving obviously intoxicated individuals and violating license conditions. Authorities utilized minor decoys who work under the direct supervision of ABC Investigators and local police and attempt to purchase alcohol from ABC licensed businesses. Those who sold to the minor face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the business's liquor license. That may include a fine, a suspension of the liquor license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

For additional information on the East County Zero Tolerance Holiday Alcohol Enforcement Detail, contact Investigator Matthew Hydar or District Administrator Jennifer Hill at the San Diego District Office at (619) 525-4064.